Fourth Sunday of Easter

SHEPHERDS LIKE JESUS

Each year this Fourth Sunday of Easter celebrates Jesus the Good Shepherd. Today's Gospel seems especially timely, for as Christians worldwide suffer persecution like Paul and Barnabas, Jesus promises his sheep enduring, invincible safety: "They shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand." But we who are free to live our faith peacefully sometimes take our membership in Jesus' flock for granted, wandering astray to seek our own pleasure and prosperity. The simple cross that Pope Francis always wore seemed to show us how Jesus responds to that. Francis's cross featured an image of Jesus, who has sought and found a lost sheep, then joyfully set it on his shoulders to carry it gently home. May Good Shepherd Sunday inspire us, so often lost and found ourselves, to assist Jesus in seeking, finding, and gently carrying home our fellow precious lambs. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

A FORETASTE OF PARADISE

Throughout Easter Time, the Church rejoices with Jesus, risen from the dead. Our readings on this Fourth Sunday of Easter celebrate our instinct to come together in joy, worshiping in church. While private prayer nourishes our individual relationship with the Lord, community prayer is a foretaste of paradise. The book of Revelation depicts a "great multitude" worshiping God "day and night in his temple." Our churches on Easter Sunday often reflect this happy multitude, filling the pews to bursting. Four Sundays into the festive season, we are encouraged to keep praising God together. In the Acts of the Apostles, Paul and Barnabas demonstrate their instinct to worship with their faith community each Sabbath, dutifully taking their seats in the synagogue. In the Gospel, Jesus calls us his sheep and reminds us why coming together as a flock is so important: uniting in community, we imitate the unity of God.

In the time of Jesus, when multiple flocks of sheep would be gathered, protecting the flock depended heavily on the shepherd's personal recognition of individual sheep, by sight and sound. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses this imagery to speak of how Jesus—and the Father—protect those whom God loves—that is, everyone. Forces that pull us away from God are ultimately no match for the fierce love God has for us. Our favor with God does not depend on our behaving properly, or gaining theological knowledge, or holding precise beliefs. Our stance with God is primarily about God's insistence that we belong to God, and to no other. Belonging to God, we know that however much we mess up, we are not lost. Belonging to God eventually draws us into a life of care for each other. Belonging to God, we can safely grow into a fuller belonging. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

LIGHT TO THE GENTILES

Today's passage from the Acts of the Apostles is one of several turning points in the self-understanding of the early Church. Paul evokes the image of "A light to the Gentiles." Some thought that Gentiles, non-Jews, were somehow marginal in God's eyes. The Gentiles in Paul's audience rejoice, because they now see that they are not "second class" members of God's family, but fully part of God's beloved people. The story continues by noting the resistance from those who enjoy "first class" status in the community, as inclusion of the Gentiles was perceived as a threat to their self-image and privilege.

The book of Acts continues to challenge today's societies, churches, and organizations. Luke's vision of God's family, united as equal heirs to the Kingdom of God, confronts our many barriers of wealth, race, gender, and much more. We are invited to give witness to this vision in our life together as the Church.

WHITE ROBES

Our reading from the Book of Revelation presents the image of God's people before God's throne, wearing robes that are washed white in the blood of the Lamb. A robe, especially when worn in God's presence, is meant to express the real truth about the person. A white robe indicates their purity. The washing in the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) suggests that the people have met much suffering, and in some manner, have participated in the suffering of Jesus.

These passages were written to a people experiencing great tribulations in living their faith. But the author of Revelation does not suggest that anyone should seek out suffering for its own sake. He does not make suffering somehow a necessary entry pass for salvation. Our sufferings come from many sources, and suffering is a profound mystery. The image of washing in blood suggests that God is present within our suffering. God accompanies our suffering, leads us toward refreshment, and will wipe every tear from our eyes.

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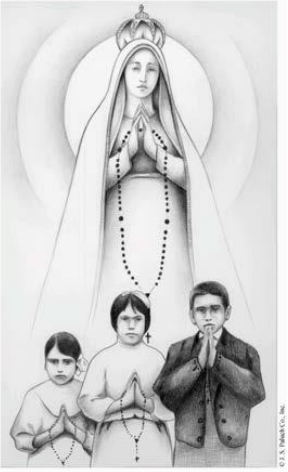
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Jn 15:9-17
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25: Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday:	Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Saturday, May 10th -
5:00PM-IHM – Our Mothers living and deceased



Sunday, May 11th, Mother's Day
8:30AM – Por la gente de Nolan County
11:00AM – For our Mothers Living and Deceased

Tuesday, May 13th 9:00AM - HF
José Angel Zarate

Wednesday, May 14th 6:00PM–IHM
+Margarito, Socorro, Pedro, Margarito, Jr., Eluterio, Alfredo, y Florentino Gutierrez; +Joe Angel & Brandon Ceballos

Thursday, May 15th 9:00AM - HF
+Elva DelaCruz

Friday, May 16th 9:00AM - HF
+Beatriz Aguilera & +Maria Aguilera

Saturday, May 17th -
5:00PM-IHM – +Louis Torres; +Ruben Gutierrez; In Thanksgiving for the birthdays of Aracelie & Melissa Montealvo

Sunday, May 18th 9:00AM - HF
8:30AM – Por Grupo Misionero y en acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Monico Zuniga, Raquel Cuellar y José Gonzales;
+Sara Gomez, Eulalio y Sarita Olvera; Ysidro y Elvira Navarette
11:00AM – For the People of Nolan County

Living God's Word -
The passage from Revelation speaks of "a great multitude . . . wearing white robes" (7:9). This refers to all who have put on Christ in baptism. Those who put on Christ will suffer as Christ suffered. Suffering will come to each of us who chooses to follow our shepherd-leader.
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May 3/4, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS…….$4522.00
LOOSE PLATE……1241.00
CCD…….....861.50
TOTAL COLLECTION……...$6624.50

Thank you for your generosity

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

May 17, 2025–Youth Group May 24, 2025 – Parish Council

God Bless all our mothers

WEDNESDAY – Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm & Adoration until 7:30pm @IHM. Confession will also be available during Adoration.

¡ATENCIÓN! ¿Quiere aprender más sobre la fe? Entonces, está invitado a participar en las clases de catecismo para adultos en español. El curso comenzará a finales de abril y se prolongará durante todo el verano hasta que se hayan impartido todas las clases. La primera clase será miercoles 30 de abril, 2025, a las 7:00p.m. en el Salón de Inmaculado Corazón en 507 W. Alabama Ave. El catequista será Victor Rubio Jr. Note mas informacion en la entrada de la iglesia.

***PLEASE* TURN IN YOUR CRS RICE BOWLS**

BAPTISM – To schedule, please call the office

ULTREYA– meets Monday, May 12th, 7:00pm at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don't have to be a cursillista to attend.

FOOD DRIVE

The parish will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to one of our local food pantries. You can bring your donations to any of the Masses during the month of May. Let us share what we have with those in need.
God Bless you – Thank you!

COLECTA DE ALIMENTOS

La parroquia recolectará alimentos no-perecederos para donar a una de nuestras despensas de alimentos locales. Puede traer sus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas durante el mes de mayo. Compartamos lo que tenemos con los necesitados. Dios lo Bendiga - Gracias!

NOTE: MASS CHANGES –

- Beginning Sunday, June 22, 2025, the 8:30AM Spanish Mass will be moved up to 8:00AM
- Mass will be celebrated @ Holy Family at 9:30AM beginning June 22nd and every 3rd Sunday of the month thereafter.
- No Sunday morning confessions on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Same schedule for the other weekend Masses.

"I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth."— *Acts 13:14,43-52*

Prayer for Mothers

Loving Father, help all mothers to follow the example of Mary in doing Your will. Aid them in seeing human life as a precious gift from You and a manifestation of Your will. Give them a generous spirit to be willing to sacrifice for the sake of their offspring. Fill their hearts with joy as they watch their children grow, and give them strength and consolation when they see them suffer. Help mothers to be examples of faith, hope, and charity, so their children will grow to Christian maturity. Help them know that their children are Yours.

Amen